REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

Claims 1–44, 70, and 71 were previously pending and under consideration.

Claims 72–74 are added herein.

Claims 45, 70, and 71 are cancelled herein.

Therefore, claims 1–44, and 72–74 are now pending and under consideration.

Claims 1–44 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, 32, 33, and 37 are amended herein.

No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Interview of April 21, 2006. During the Interview, Applicant reviewed the present application and explained an understanding of the Swartz reference. As discussed in greater detail below, Applicant presented distinctions over Swartz. As indicated in the Examiner's Interview Summary, the Examiner agreed that the distinctions presented herein "appear[] [to] overcome Swartz".

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 102

Claims 1–44 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102 as anticipated by Swartz. For reasons presented below, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Swartz Does Not Automatically Capture Places Visited

Amended claims 1 and 25 recite "automatically maintaining a sequence of places visited ... the sequence is maintained by automatically adding the places to the

sequence when the user visits the places". Amended claim 37 recites "automatically maintaining a sequence of places visited by a user in order of visitation".

Swartz discusses a system for accessing files on a computer. A toolbar, called a Snapshot Navigator Menu 301 ("Navigator") has a File Snapshot List 304 ("File List") with individual File Snapshots 305 (paragraph 0029). Swartz adds new File Snapshots to the File List (paragraph 0034, lines 9-14). This is done manually: "capture sequence ... is initiated by the user pressing a keyboard capture hot-key while working within an application" (paragraph 0036). See also Figure 7 ("User presses keyboard hot key to activate the capture sequence", 7003). As shown, Swartz does not <u>automatically</u> maintain a list places visited; places visited are captured by a user manually using a hot key.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 25 is respectfully requested.

<u>Swartz Does Not Maintain Places Visited In Order In Which They Are Visited</u>

Amended claims 1 and 25 recite maintaining a sequence of places visited where "the places in the sequence are ordered according to the order in which they are visited". In Figure 4 of Swartz, the log file is "dynamically modified to contain the information about all documents that are currently open and the applications that they reside in" (paragraph 0035). Furthermore, whenever an application is closed in Swartz, corresponding "handles that are no longer valid in memory are removed from log file 403 (paragraph 0066). Therefore, Swartz does not maintain a sequence of places visited, rather it maintains, in no particular order, a list of places currently open in applications.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 25 is respectfully requested.

Other Claim Amendments

Other claim amendments herein are made to improve the readability and clarity of the claims.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The dependent claims are deemed to be patentable based on their dependence from allowable independent claims. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, claim 6 recites that "the first selection mechanism comprises a back button". Swartz does not include any discussion or suggestion of a back (or forward) button. Withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above Application is requested. Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the pending claims be allowed, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes, after this Response, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

If this Preliminary Amendment is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this Response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

Microsoft Corporation

Date: <u>May 10, 2006</u>   By:_____

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Preliminary Amendment
Microsoft Corporation
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